line with the existing Regional Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are proposed at Guwahati and Bhopal.

(b) It is envisaged that the Regional Offices at Guwahati and Bhopal would be operational in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) These Offices would coordinate between Headquarter of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) and the publishers of the region on the matter relating to registration, title etc.

(d) To cater to the needs of Maharashtra State, a Regional Office of RNI is already functioning at Mumbai.

Withdrawal of private channels from DD Direct Plus

169. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several popular private channels were withdrawing their channels from DD Direct Plus services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for expanding its base of DD Direct Plus in all parts of the country and to face the competition of private companies like Dish TV, Tata sky, Reliance, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) DD Direct Plus has already been upgraded from 33 channels to 41 TV channels. 21 channels of All India Radio are also available on the DD Direct Plus. Unlike private DTH services, DD Direct Plus is not charging any monthly subscription from the viewers. DD Direct Plus signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. All DD Channels are also publicizing this service.

Steps to ban obscene telecast

†170. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether obscenity is being shown uninterruptedly in the whole country and Doordarshan Kendras and private channels are no exception to it;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to amend the Indian Penal Code and Women Representation (prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts;

(c) if so, by when these Acts are likely to be amended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Certain instances of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes have been brought to the notice of the Government, which have been suitably addressed.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.